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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,018	03/31/2004	Jason Urbanski	8627-373 (PA-5270-CIP2)	5526
48003 7590 07/26/2007 BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE/CHICAGO/COOK PO BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			EXAMINER PHILOGENE, PEDRO	
			ART UNIT 3733	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/26/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,018

Applicant(s)

URBANSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Pedro Philogene

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3-7,21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyle et al. (6,695,813) in view of Cathcart et al. (5,681,347).

With respect to claims 1,21, Boyle et al., disclose a medical grasping device comprising: an elongate control member (18,520) having an atraumatic distal tip section, as best seen in FIG.1, and a proximal end portion; the elongate control member further including a grasping portion (14,16,530) proximal the distal tip section; an outer sheath (46,48) with a passageway therethrough, as best seen in FIG.2, surrounding the elongate control member and relatively movable with respect thereto. The control member comprising a low elongation material and a high elongation material; asset forth in column 25, lines 34-50, column 26, lines 32-49.

Although Boyle et al teach of a control assembly, as set forth in column 24, lines 19-45, it is noted that Boyle et al., did not teach of a control assembly as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Cathcart et al., evidences such a control assembly to enable the control deployment and displacement of a device.

Therefore, given the teaching of Cathcart et al., it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the control

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assembly, as taught by Cathcart et al, in the device of Boyle et al., to urge the medical grasping device from a retracted to an expanded position.

Furthermore the prior art teaches of an elongated member, but is silent as to the material used to make the elongate control member. The claimed phrase "the elongate control member being formed for low elongation or is comprised of a low elongation material for low elongation or high elongation" is being treated as a product by process limitation. As set forth in the MPEP 2113, product by process claims are not limited to the manipulations of the recited steps, only to the structure implied by the steps. Thus, even though the prior art is silent as to the process used to make the elongate control member, it appears that the product in the prior art would be the same or similar as that claimed.

With respect to claims 3-7, the above combination of references teaches all the limitations, the outer sheath being flexible and kink-resistant, as set forth in column 11, lines 42-67, column 12, lines 1-33, the atraumatic distal tip section tapers to a blunt and rounded tip; as best seen at the end of the control member 18, the control assembly including an actuation section that is grippable for reciprocal movement along the handle, as set forth in column 6, lines 3-25 of Cathcart et al., and a connecting block (25) as set forth in column 6, lines 3-25 of Cathcart et al.

Claims 2, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyle et al. (6,695,813) in view of Cathcart et al. (5,681,347) in view of Braunschweiler et al. (5,484,444).

Furthermore, it is noted that the above combination of references did not teach of an elongated control member that is a flexible cannula defining a lumen extending through into which a guide wire is receivable and movable with respect thereto; as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Braunschweiler et al evidence the use of such an elongated member with cannula and guide wire to ensure that reliable operation is achieved and therefore guaranteed the greatest possible operational reliability.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Boyle/cathcart et al, as taught by Braunschweiler et al., to ensure that reliable operation is achieved and therefore guaranteed the greatest possible operational reliability.

Claims 8-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyle et al. (6,695,813) in view of Cathcart et al. (5,681,347) in view of Hillstead (5,098,440).

With respect to claims 8-19, it is noted that the above combination of references teaches all the limitations, except for wire loops that are substantially circular upon full deployment, as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Hillstead evidences the use of wire loops that are circular upon full deployment and having side sections that overlap and touch the vessel wall, the loops are capable of overlapping with adjacent ones and are capable of joining with the elongated control member and self deploy

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transversely upon emerging from the distal end, to engage the object to be retrieved with a greater force.

Therefore, given the teaching of Hillstead, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to incorporate the design of the grasping device of Hillstead in the grasping device of Boyle/Cathcart et al. to engage the object to be retrieved with a greater force.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 4/30/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant is arguing that Boyle et al did not teach of an elongate control member comprising a low elongation material and a high elongation material, as claimed in claim 1. The examiner begs to differ, in column 25, lines 34-50, Boyle et al teach of a suitable composition of Nickel-titanium (55% nickel; 45% titanium with a breaking elongation at a minimum of 10%) that can be used to manufacture the strut. Furthermore, in column 26, lines 32-49, Boyle et al again teach of an inner shaft or guide wire or elongate control member, made of nickel-titanium alloys or shape memory material. The reference to Boyle et al teaches that the elongate control member is made of material capable of a certain elongation, but is silent to a high or a low elongation. The claimed phrase " the elongate control member comprising a low elongation material and high elongation material" is being treated as a product by process limitation; that is the elongate control member is made of low or high elongation material. As set forth in MPEP 2113, product by process claims are not limited to the manipulation of the recited steps, only to the structure implied by the steps. Thus even though the reference to

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Boyle et al is silent as to the material used, it appears that the elongate control member would be the same or similar as that claimed (see Boyle et al column 25, lines 30-50, column 26, lines 32-50).

Furthermore, applicant also stated that none of the cited references teaches of an elongate control member comprising low and high elongation material. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use elongate control member made of low and high elongation material; since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Pedro Philogene
July 16, 2007


PEDRO PHILOGENE
PRIMARY EXAMINER